

Otterham C P School

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Dear Parents

A warm welcome back to school for the start of the Summer Term. I do hope you have all had a pleasant Easter break, enjoying the sunshine with plenty of fresh air. Staff here in school are eager to get started with lots of exciting learning opportunities and activities planned for the term ahead.

Whilst there is a lot to celebrate COVID wise in terms of low number of cases, availability of testing kits, vaccinations and 'road map' achievements, the virus is still of concern and as a school there are steps we MUST continue to take. We are continuing to follow the latest government guidance in terms of staggered starts and endings to the school day (please continue with previous time slots and endeavour to be punctual), hand washing and/or sanitising, social distancing where it is practicable to do so and remaining within our 'bubbles' whilst within the school building. However, following consultation with staff, we feel now is the right time to remove the 'bubble' stipulation when the children are outside. For 12 months children within school have had to remain separated from friends and siblings when outside to reduce potential transmission of the virus. Now, with very low cases, the availability of testing, the success of the vaccination programme and the ability for families to mix outside in gardens, parks and beer gardens it does not make sense to continue to separate the children whilst out in the fresh air on the school grounds. We have a lot of space for the children to use and to remove restrictions on when and where children play would improve their enjoyment and wellbeing immensely. It will also be a joy to see the older and younger pupils being able to play together and finally getting to know one another!

We intend to start this on Thursday, giving us time to gather your thoughts on the matter. Please make contact via secretary@otterham.cornwall.sch.uk during the next 24 hours if you would like us to consider your opinion on the matter. Please note that if suddenly cases within the wider community become evident, we would immediately revert to previous arrangements of children being in 'bubbles' outside.

Teachers will be sharing their plans for the term with you shortly and you will be being asked imminently to make an appointment for next week's parental consultation. The latest information on attainment, progress and wellbeing will be shared with you and it will be useful for you to share any success stories / concerns you may have about your child with their class teacher.

I am sure that this will be the first term in 12 months that we do not have a lockdown, and that in itself is a reason to celebrate. I still remain hopeful that there are many other reasons to celebrate, such as fund raising events, educational visits and sporting events (maybe even with an audience!).

As always, any questions, please ask.

Kind regards

Helen Ward